

# Give Voice to Montana's Students

## Why Montana Educators Should Volunteer for the SBAC Online Panel for Setting Achievement Levels

### Registering for the Online Panel

Panelists will register for a 2-day window within the October 6-17, 2014, time period. Registrations must be submitted online by September 19, 2014. Interested participants can register at the following link:

<http://smarterbalanced.measinc.com/EventCode/100614>

On the registration site, registrants will be asked to choose the grade and content area (English language arts/Literacy or mathematics) in which they want to participate. They will be asked to provide an email address, role (teacher, administrator, etc.), and demographic information.\* They will then be asked to verify their email address and select a 2-day window for participation.

Panelists will receive an email confirming their participation time slot upon completing registration. Participants will be reminded before their 2-day window.

### Questions?

Please contact Judy Snow, OPI State Assessment Director, with any questions about the Online Panel at (406)-444-3656 or [jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov).

*\*Personally identifiable information of individual participants will not be released to the general public and will only be used for the purposes of reminding participants as their selected session time approaches.*

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This fall, K-12 educators, postsecondary educators, parents, and business/community leaders from Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) governing states will collaborate to develop common achievement levels that are rigorous, fair, and accurate for each of the SBAC Assessments. The Online Panel is an opportunity for thousands of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to participate in the process of setting achievement levels. The online panel should not take more than three hours to complete, and can be done at any time, making participation convenient for educators who are busy during the school day.

### Why are Educators Needed for the Online Panel?

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) encourages educators to participate in the Online Panel to ensure the needs of Montana students are considered during the panel discussions. While the panel is open to the general public, the experience Montana educators have working with students of all achievement levels and needs is especially valuable.



*Be part of the  
discussion...*

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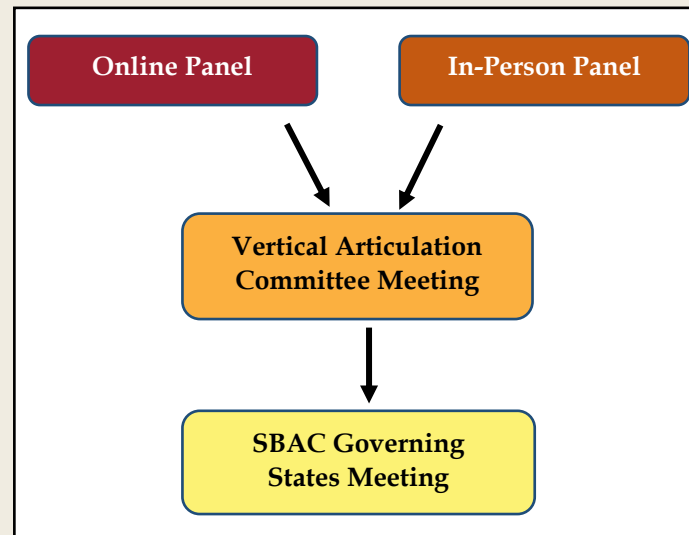
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### What is the Process for Setting Achievement Levels?

There are four stages to the SBAC process for setting achievement levels:

- **Online Panel** – An opportunity to collect input from a diverse group of participants (educators, administrators, and the general public from participating states) and establish consistent measures of progress for the Smarter Balanced interim and summative assessments.
- **In-Person Workshop** – An opportunity for 500 nominated educators and administrators to engage in a comprehensive review of questions on the assessment and make recommendations for operationalizing common expectations.
- **Vertical Articulation Committee Meeting** – An online opportunity for a committee selected from participants in the In-Person Workshop to review results from the prior to sessions and make final recommendations.
- **SBAC Governing States Meeting** – The recommendations from the Online Panel, the In-Person Panel, and the Vertical Articulation

Committee will be presented to the chief school officers in SBAC governing states for their consideration and endorsement, in order to establish a common set of performance standards for mathematics and English language arts/Literacy across grades 3-8 and high school.



### What Happens at the Online Panel?

The objective of the Online Panel is to recommend a cut score for Achievement Level 3, the score that demonstrates how much students should know or be able to do in order to be proficient at the grade-level standards and to be on track for eventual college and career readiness, a process that may take up to 3 hours to complete. In order to do this, panelists will:

- take the SBAC Practice test for their selected grade and content area,
- review content standards and Achievement Level Descriptors,
- examine items for their selected grade/content area
- place a bookmark to recommend a Level 3 cut score.